

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 MC-02 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 ACDA-10 L-02 EB-03

TRSE-00 DRC-01 COME-00 IGA-01 OMB-01 /067 W

----- 089707

R 101606Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3730

INFO DOD WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 11613

LIMDIS

DOD FOR OSD, CSAF AND DIA

KUWAIT ALSO PASS MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, UK, OM

SUBJECT: BRITISH JAGUARS AND RAPIERS FOR OMAN

1. FCO ME DEPARTMENT HEAD WRIGHT CONFIRMS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORP. THAT OMAN HAS ORDERED 48 MILLION POUNDS WORTH OF RAPIER SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES. DELIVERY WILL TAKE SOME TIME.

2. WRIGHT ALSO CONFIDES OMAN HAS ORDERED "ABOUT 12" JAGUAR AIRCRAFT. DELIVERY PROBABLY WILL BE SPREAD OUT OVER 30 MONTHS. THEIR VALUE RAISES TOTAL PACKAGE, FOR BOTH RAPIERS AND JAGUARS, TO VICINITY OF 100 MILLION
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POUNDS (ABOUT \$240 MILLION).

3. COMMENT: WHEN WE CONTRASTED THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH PRIOR ATTITUDE COMMUNICATED TO US BY FCO OF OPPOSING OMANI EXPENDITURES FOR AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, WRIGHT PROTESTED THAT OIL PRICE RISES HAD GREATLY CHANGED THE SITUATION. LAST YEAR FCO WAS DUG IN AGAINST SQUANDERING OF RELATIVELY STRAINED OMANI DEFENSE FUNDS ON MAJOR AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. OIL CRISIS BROUGHT VAST NEW OMANI REVENUES. FACED WITH DETERMINATION OF SULTAN QABOOS TO BUY HIS AIR DEFENSE ITEMS, AND OBVIOUS HAPPINESS OF HMG TREASURY THAT HE WANTED TO BUY BRITISH, FCO WOULD NOT HAVE STOOD A CHANCE OF BLOCKING THE DEALS THIS YEAR.
SOHM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SAM, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
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Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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